

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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R 201340Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2122

S E C R E T MANAMA0578

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 : XGDS-1

TAGS : EAID, MARR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE : MANAMA 0574

1. DURING MAY 20 " SOCIAL CALL" ON AMIR, HE CHARACTERISTICALLY MENTIONED HIS SUPPORT FOR U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN THE GULF AND PLEASURE THAT MIDDLE EAST FORCE IS REMAINING IN BAHRAIN. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVISE HIM OF MY MAY 19 DISCUSSION WITH SHIRAWI (REFTEL) STRESSING THAT WE ARE IN NO WAY TRYING TO PRESSURE GOB ON THIS MATTER, BUT AT SAME TIME WANT BAHRAINI LEADERS TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM WE ARE FACING. I EMPHASIZED THAT PROBLEM AS WE SEE IT IS NOT WHETHER THERE WILL BE U.S. TECHNICAL ADVISORS IN BAHRAIN BUT WHEN, AND THAT IF JUNE 13 DEADLINE PASSES WITHOUT FORMAL CONCLUSION MIDDLE EAST FORCE DISCUSSIONS WE MAY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DELAY INITIATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

2. AMIR PROFESSED SURPRISE AND SOME IRRITATION THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT BEEN FORMALLY CONCLUDED AND SAID HE WOULD TAKE UP MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER UPON HIS RETURN FROM IRAQ. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE NO SYMPATHY WITH THE VIEW THAT THERE IS TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN DELAYING WRAPPING UP MIDDLE EAST FORCE PAPERWORK. I EXPLAINED THAT I HAD NOT WANTED TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH HIM AND CERTAINLY WAS NOT SEEKING HIS INTERVENTION BUT THAT I DID

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FEEL I OWED HIM AN EXPLANATION OF WHERE WE STOOD WITH GOB ON

MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS SINCE
WE ARE BEING COMPLETELY CANDID WITH GOB ON THESE MATTERS.

3. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, AMIR FREQUENTLY USES
FOREIGN MINISTER AS EXCUSE FOR NOT DOING THAT WHICH HE HAS
NOT YET DECIDED TO DO, THUS LEAVING HIMSELF FREE TO AGREE
WITH ALL MEN ON ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES. NEVERTHELESS HE
APPEARED, AS HAVE SEVERAL MINISTERS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED
WITH MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS, GENUINELY VAGUE IN
HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE NEGOTIATIONS STAND AND
PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED. HE ALSO SEEMED COMPLETELY
SINCERE IN HIS DETERMINATION TO SEE MIDDLE EAST FORCE
NEGOTIATIONS WRAPPED UP FORMALLY WITH DISPATCH, BUT THEN HE
ALWAYS DOES.

TWINAM

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